7. With a view to increase productivity of Passport Offices, it has been decided that a passport writer should write 50 passports per day alongwith making entries in passport register. Each official detailed in the Indexing section should screen at least 100 applications per day without overtime.

Rearranging the Priorities of our Diplomatic Missions Abroad

1681. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the plans to rearrange and re-orient the priorities of our diplomatic missions abroad keeping in view the recent changes in the international order;

(b) what steps are being taken to emphasis economic relationships and development of trade overseas, by our diplomatic missions; and

(c) what fresh guidelines have been issued in the last six months to prepare and guide our missions to better serve the need of the hour?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) The new economic policies of the Government are to a significant extent in response to the changes taking place in the global economic environment. The priorities of our missions abroad have been accordingly reoriented so that diplomacy can effectively subserve the country's economic interests. Clear cut guidelines have been given to the missions and an inter-active process has been established between the missions and this Ministry through which upto date information on changes in economic policies and procedures is provided to the missions on a continuous basis.

U. S. suggestion to Avoid Nuclear Cooperation with Iran

1682. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bush Administration has strongly urged India to avoid any form of nuclear cooperation with Iran, even under safeguards, because of lack of evidence that Tehran is genuinely committed to the exclusively peaceful uses of nuclear energy;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the state at which the proposed sale of 10 MW reactor to Iran stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) The US has expressed reservations to a number of countries, including India, on the subject of nuclear co-operation with Iran.

(b) Government have noted the position of the US.

(c) While there were some preliminary contracts, there have been no further developments in the matter.

India's Role at G-15 meeting at Caracas

1683. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister attended the G-15 meeting at Caracas, Venezuela during the last month; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the above meeting and the role played by India there at?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Summit Level Group for South-South Consultation and Cooperation (G-15) that met in Caracas from 27—29 November, 1991. adopted a Joint Communique putting forward their point of view on major international economic issues and embodying decisions to promote South-South cooperation through specific projects.